

LPPD cracks down on drunk drivers

January 2, 2013

La Porte police recently joined several other area law enforcement agencies, thanks to a Houston Galveston Area Council Regional DWI Task Force grant that covered associated costs, for a two-week period of targeted DWI enforcement.

The first two weekends for the grant were Dec. 21-22 and Dec. 28-29.

Local law enforcement officials deemed the operation a success. Enforcement for the operation was from 10 p.m. – 6 a.m. each night.

The program was established as a zero-tolerance traffic enforcement incentive, meaning that any suspected drunk driver would be legally processed for offenses meeting the criteria.

As an added feature, to ensure the legitimacy and stringency of the program, any La Porte officer working under the grant program was required to be certified in standardized field sobriety testing, or scheduled to be certified this fiscal year.

Texas and Harris County's various DWI reduction programs have consistently proven to reduce injuries, fatalities and property damage along major thoroughfares, Sgt. John Krueger of the LPPD said.

"In fact, recent Center for Disease Control and Prevention statistics reveal that every day almost 30 people in the United States die in motor vehicle crashes that involve an alcohol-impaired driver," Krueger said. "This amounts to one death every 48 minutes. In addition, the annual cost of alcohol-related crashes totals more than \$51 billion. Thankfully, there are effective measures, such as designated police patrols, that can help prevent injuries and deaths from alcohol-impaired driving."

With these facts in mind, residents are reminded to drive safely, while taking comfort in knowing additional traffic enforcement officers are monitoring local roadways in an effort to increase the level of safety.

For more information on the La Porte Police Department's involvement in any of the various DWI enforcement programs, contact the agency at 281-842-3167.